

to our Federal retirees and employees for fair treatment. We have not been fair in this last year. We can begin anew. I hope the Committee on the Budget in their final deliberations will look for COLA equity across the board.

#### STALEMATE WITH FREEMEN SHOULD END

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. CLEMENT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I have watched and deliberated and thought about what is happening in Montana with the Freeman, and more and more it is bothering me. It bothers me, because all of us have to live under the laws of the land. A lot of the laws, we do not like; a lot of the rules and regulations, we want to change; but there is a way to go about it.

The New York Times reported that the leader of the Freeman has collected over \$676,000 in Federal farm supports over the past 10 years. It is all right for him to denounce the Federal Government, but the fact is, he is living off the Federal Government.

These Freeman that occupy this property in Montana, they do not own that property. Somebody else owns that property. And what about the people that own that property? They are about to lose that property because they have a big mortgage to pay. They need to plant a crop. They need to cultivate the land. They need to do something with that land. And yet they cannot even get on that land because we keep continuing to delay.

Now, I realize our reluctance. I realize maybe some mistakes were made in Waco, maybe some mistakes were made at Ruby Ridge. But the Federal Government, the Government, finally has to act or react. They cannot keep postponing and delaying, knowing that by doing nothing we are not complying with the laws and we are infringing on the majority's rights.

Sure, we want to protect the minority's rights, and, my goodness, I have supported much legislation to protect the minority's rights. I realize a lot of people in the West feel very strongly when it comes to individual rights and property rights, and much of the land in the West is owned by the Federal Government; it is not owned by the individuals. But the fact is, fair is fair, and I think a lot of people in the West would also say that this has gone on long enough, that we need closure, and we need it now.

Talks have broken down again. Just yesterday we thought we were going to have some type of conclusion to these talks, but that is not true at all. The fact is, a lot of these people have broken the law that live on this property in Montana.

Let us give this ultimatum that these people need, to get off this property and need to get off it now, and give that property back to the home-

owners, to the people that own that property, to let them pursue their goals and objectives. That is the American way, and that is what we ought to do as Americans. By doing that, we will be doing something for our country and for individual rights.

#### THE MINIMUM WAGE AND MEANINGFUL REFORM OF WELFARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. RIGGS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address my colleagues and to focus a little bit on the subject of the minimum wage, because I would like my colleagues to know that in the 1994 campaign I promised to support a modest increase in the minimum wage, provided that that increase in the minimum wage was coupled with meaningful reform of the welfare system.

It seems to me we ought to increase the minimum wage so that the minimum wage can keep pace with inflation, so that we can restore some of the purchasing power to the minimum wage, and so that, most importantly, we can make work more attractive than welfare.

I would like to quote for you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, the distinguished minority leader of the House of Representatives, the Congressman from Michigan, Mr. BONIOR, who said last night on the Ted Koppel ABC Nightline Show, "If you are going to move people off of welfare, you have to make work pay."

I agree with that premise. The real problem I have though is that we need to again combine a minimum wage increase with real reform of the welfare system, and many of our Democratic colleagues, who are led by Mr. BONIOR, while supporting a minimum wage increase on the one hand, adamantly oppose reforming welfare on the other.

So I want to take this opportunity to remind our colleagues that there is a definite linkage, it is sort of a natural linkage, between increasing the minimum wage and reforming welfare. It is something I think that this Congress, the 104th Congress in our country's history, has the opportunity to do, if only we can put partisan politics aside.

I also want to remind my colleagues, as you well know, Mr. Speaker, that President Clinton, who in 1992 as candidate Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it, has already vetoed two welfare reform proposals sent to him by this Congress, that is to say, two welfare reform proposals that passed the House, passed the Senate, but which he vetoed.

These were commonsense welfare reforms that put a time limit on receiving welfare benefits, that end welfare as an entitlement, that require able-bodied welfare recipients to work, at least part-time, or enter a job training program in exchange for their welfare benefits, which creates subsidized jobs

for those welfare recipients who cannot find work in the private sector, and which increases child care and transportation assistance for welfare recipients so that they can make that difficult transition from welfare to work, especially single mothers, who many times struggle against heroic odds.

So I hope we can put the partisan politics aside. I hope we can get our congressional Democratic colleagues to acknowledge the premise that the minority leader was saying last night, "If you are going to move people off of welfare, you have to make work pay."

It is my belief we ought to increase the minimum wage so that the minimum wage, that is to say, an entry level job which pays a minimum wage, pays more than welfare benefits in the aggregate. That is the only way we are going to be able to reform welfare. It is a natural linkage.

So, again I say to my Democratic colleagues, when you stand up and thunder on the House floor about your desire to see the minimum wage increase, which, by the way, is something that congressional Democrats did not do during the 2 years that they controlled this whole town, when they controlled both the Congress and, of course, the Presidency, but if you are going to talk about a minimum wage increase, let us at least do it in the context of reforming the welfare system, so that, as the minority leader said last night on "Nightline," we can in fact make work pay more than welfare.

#### RAISE THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge the National Day of Prayer and to appreciate the words of our guest chaplain and to acknowledge that this is a country that allows all of us to be able to pray in peace and in freedom. I would encourage all those who utilize that tool as their spiritual connection to applaud and appreciate this particular day.

□ 1030

I could not help but also, just as an aside from my remarks, listen to the gentleman from Tennessee and his carefully prepared comments about the standoff in Montana, and I would only echo his very eloquent statement that freedom in America is paid at a price, and that price is the obedience to the laws of the land in a nonviolent manner.

We recognize and respect protest. It has been a part of this Nation from its earliest history, recounting the throwing of the tea into the Boston Harbor and on down into the abolition movement, the women's movement of the